

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following listing of all claims:

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*cej*  
1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method of identifying equivalent portions of one or more unsorted hierarchically-organized data structures, the method comprising:

collapsing plural nodes of the one or more unsorted hierarchically-organized data structures into respective representations, wherein each of the respective representations incorporate information of a respective node and information of any child nodes of the respective node; and based on correspondence of particular instances of the collapsed representations, identifying the respective portions as equivalent, wherein the collapsing is order-insensitive with respect to information of the respective child nodes, wherein the collapsed representations include respective aggregations of orthogonally-encoded child node information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a unit of orthogonally-encoded child node information includes a power-of-two encoded mapping of a concatenation of the child node information with a similarly encoded mapping of respective information of child nodes thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a unit of orthogonally-encoded child node information includes a power-of-two encoded mapping of a concatenation of the child node information with recursively encoded mappings of respective sub-hierarchies thereof.